

Remarks

Claims 1, 6, 12-17 and 19 are amended; claims 3, 4, 11 and 18 are cancelled; and new claims 20-23 have been added. Claims 1, 2, 5-10, 12-17 and 19-23 are presently pending in the application.

Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for his careful and thorough review of the present application and related prior-art, and for his indication that claims 12, 15, 16, 18 and 19 contain allowable subject matter. With this amendment, Applicant has cancelled certain claims which were rejected on prior-art, and has amended other claims to include the subject matter of claims 12, 15, 16, 18 and 19. In particular, claim 6 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 12, and claim 13 has been amended to include the subject matter of claims 14 and 15. Also, claim 17 has been amended to include the subject matter of claims 13 and 18. Regarding independent claim 1, this claim has been amended to include subject matter generally corresponding to claim 12, which was indicated to contain allowable subject matter. Accordingly, Applicant requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejections under 35 U.S.C. Sections 102(b) and 103(a).

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that the application is now in condition for allowance, and an early indication of same is requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned with any questions.

Respectfully submitted,



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Kenton R. Mullins  
Attorney for Applicant  
Reg. No. 36,331

Date: May 28, 2004

Stout, Uxa, Buyan & Mullins, LLP  
4 Venture, Suite 300  
Irvine, CA 92618  
Telephone: (949) 450-1750  
Facsimile: (949) 450-1764